

REMARKS

In accordance with this invention, straight yarns are incorporated into a woven ground fabric of a papermaking felt, or added to the woven ground fabric. The straight yarns suppress the increase in width and the concomitant decrease in thickness of the ground fabric when the felt is in use in a papermaking machine, and thereby extend the useful life of the felt, and improve its water squeezing capability, under conditions in which the nip pressure is high and a short restoration time is allowed.

Paragraph 0010 is being amended for better consistency with the drawings.

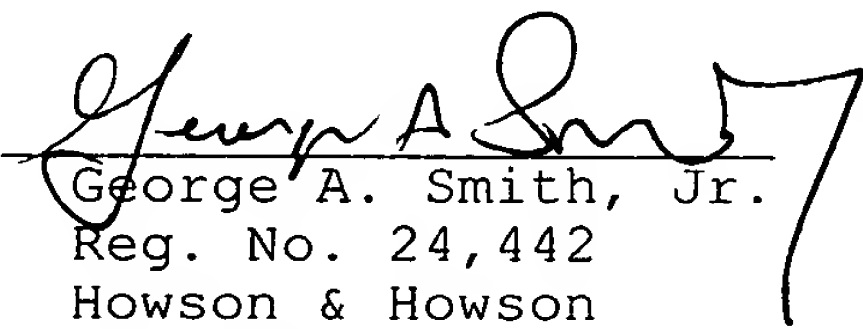
The terms "distributed yarns" and "winding yarns", on which both rejections under §112 are based, are unnecessary and have been eliminated from the claims.

New claim 3 is supported in the specification at paragraph 0016, and paragraph 0025. New claim 4 is supported at paragraph 0016.

The felt of the cited Buchanan patent has no straight yarns, as is apparent from FIGs. 3 and 4 considered together. Accordingly nothing in Buchanan anticipates the present claims or shows the claimed subject matter to have been obvious.

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application are requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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